

# GAZETTE

June, 2003

## NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

7:00pm

CFFC, Ed Bldg.

We will try and tye something unique as suggested by Poul Jorgensen.

### Directions:

1. Put enough (for about 2 flies) of the following materials in separate small envelopes or bags: a) tailing, b) body, c) wing, and d) hackle (may be for dry, wets, nymphs or streamers)
2. At the meeting we will put all tails, body, etc. materials together, by category. Everyone will draw one of each item category. Each person will then tye a fly with the material selected.
3. All flies tyed will be donated to 'Casting For Recovery'.

**So bring your tying equipment, the items listed above and be prepared to have an interesting and enjoyable tying session.**

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The ANNUAL PICNIC will be Saturday, Aug. 16 at the Center.

The Fly Fishermen's 'Summerfest' will be Saturday, Aug. 23 or 30.

Members will receive more information about both of these events later this summer.

**CORRECTION:** In the last issue, an article appeared that was attributed to Bill Millard who later informed me that, although he sent that entertaining and interesting article in, he did not write it. (ed)

### Spanish Tyer who is influenced by Vincent Marinaro : by Misako Ishamura

Since I will go to Spain to compete among 21 countries' teams at World Fly Fishing Championship, as a Team Japan captain, I started to investigate flies in Spain. Surfing the web-sites, based on the information that I've gotten from my husband, and those who are well informed in the chat room of AnglersonLine.com, I found Mr. Paco Soria. He is a fly fisher, a fly tyer and breeds Coq de Leon for a hobby in Spain.

He plucks Coq de Leon feathers and tyes beautiful flies with them. They are very good materials for tails and wings because of their colors, rather stiff durable texture and water resistance. At his website, <http://www.coqdeleon.com>, you can see the beautiful pictures of feathers. There are also pictures of flies and some of them are his originals. Some of them are called "Ugly Flies" innovated along with the idea of Vincent Marinaro X thorax flies. There are the detailed instructions how to tye with a couple pictures at <http://flytyingworld.com/PagesP/ps-uglymethod.htm>.

I ordered sample of Coq de Leon feathers from Paco. I've never seen such feathers, so shiny, colorful like caddis wings and with translucent look. Maybe because of the moon and soil in Spain? These have been favorite for tying flies for many centuries in Spain. If you want to see them, please come to JazzMark gallery. It is easy to get them from Paco by mailing a check with US\$ amount to his friend, Ed Gallop. If you want to know the details, please contact me at [misakoflyfish@hotmail.com](mailto:misakoflyfish@hotmail.com) or call 212-628-7818.

Reference: Paco Soria's Profile Pictures of His Flies [www.danica.com/flytier/psoria/psoria.htm](http://www.danica.com/flytier/psoria/psoria.htm)=20

Fly tying tips from Paco for Stripping Quills Quills: [http://espn-](http://espn-i.starwave.com/outdoors/flyfishing/s/ff_fea_flytyer_tips.html)

[i.starwave.com/outdoors/flyfishing/s/ff fea flytyer tips.html](http://espn-i.starwave.com/outdoors/flyfishing/s/ff_fea_flytyer_tips.html)

## 'TYING TIPS' submitted by Guild members (see important note following these tips)

1. Tie your flies with merry thoughts and beautiful music in your heart.
2. Work with a short length of thread outside the bobbin. Small circles are faster to make than large ones, and they provide you with more control when binding down materials.
3. Don't make unnecessary thread wraps: Always let the bobbin hang at the exact point, This places the thread where you need it for the next Step in tying.
4. For all tyers who wear glasses, it would behoove you to see your eye doctor and make sure that you have a special pair of glasses made only for your tying purposes. Ground with any special stigmatism taken into account, and created to work properly at exactly the distance from you eyes to the vise jaws. I have done this and it helps immensely. I can now tie for hours on end without feeling sever eyestrain. Best money I ever spent as far as tying is concerned
5. Read the old books. Try and understand the why of what they were doing and how each step fits into the whole.
6. Keep a can of Static Guard on your tying table. Especially when your tying hair wing flies. Spray the patch of hair and the comb your using to remove the under fur. Then allow the hair and comb to dry before cutting and stacking the hair. It makes the under fur a lot easier to remove, and the hair easier to control, allowing for a good wing.
7. Add zap a gap or crazy glue to about 2" of thread and just wrap. There's no knot and no whip finish. This works great on small patterns such as #28 #32 and on everything else as well.
8. An obvious one... crimp the barb on your hook before you start tying. Aside from lessening the chance of catching your thread, you'll discover the occasional flawed hook that breaks when you crimp before you tie your fly.
9. If you need a background for your vise, and you don't want to buy one of those white formica-type background that brackets onto your vise, you can use one of the large size 5x8 index cards, either propped up or folded to stand on its own. They come in white, or colors like pale green. (Try to get a couple from a friend or at work. If you buy them you'll have tons of extras.)
10. You can put some Vaseline on the groves in the jar lid of your tying cement. That will make it easier to remove in case some excess glue gets on the rim. (Vaseline is also good to put on the groves of a light bulb prior to screwing into a socket. This makes it much easier to remove 6-months later when it blows out, instead of finding it frozen into the socket, which often happens.)
11. Store your cement upside down to prevent evaporation.
12. Take a heavy piece of leather and push straight pins through the leather up to the head of the pin. Place them in rows. You now have the perfect location to allow the head cement to dry on a finished fly and by placing the eye of the hook on the point of the pin you have opened the hole for your tippet before it ever gets to a fly box or the stream.
13. When tying a dry fly, using hackle, regardless of style, parachute, Catskill, etc. If you are having problems with the hackle splaying, try wrapping a ***very thin*** layer of dubbing under where the hackle is to go. This is especially effective on Catskill ties, but also works well with parachutes, para-emergers, and palmered flies.
14. Using lead or other metal wire laid along the sides of the hook shank gives the nymph a wide, flat silhouette. The problem with this is that the wire tends to slide around the hook shank or twist and messes up the silhouette of the fly.

To avoid this problem without having to mix-up and use epoxy, use a thin, narrow strip of latex wound on the shank prior to attaching the wire. Do not bind the latex down with the tying thread except at the tie off point at the front of the latex. You want the wire to get squeezed into the latex when you over-wrap the wire on the latex wrapped hook shank with the thread. This secures the wire good enough to hold it in place, even after a few fish have mouthed the fly.

The cheapskate way to obtain the latex strips is to cut them from latex gloves. I use a method similar to one demonstrated by Poul Jorgensen in Modern Dressings for the Practical Angler to cut the strips. Sandwich the glove(s) between a piece of heavy paper and use a paper cutter to cut across the glove(s). I usually start

- cutting at the cuff (wrist) end and work my way to the fingers. The latex strips also work well as the body material. A permanent marker works well to color the latex to match the naturals.
15. Never have more than one Vodka before sitting down at the bench to tie.
  16. Measuring gauge for wings, bodies, tails, etc., (couple of steps):
    - a) Use your bodkin or make one by sticking a thin sewing needle's eye into the eraser end of a pencil.
    - b) Take a wide elastic band and cut off a square of rubber. Pierce the rubber in its center with the Bodkin's needle point and slide the rubber up the needle's shank. You have now turned the Bodkin into a measuring device.

Slide the rubber square or stop along the needle shank to create a measuring tool. Use it to measure the hook shank and you will have the right measurement for each tail and wing that you tie. When the measurement is longer than the Hook shank as in a streamer's wing then just set the rubber stop at the correct length and all the wings will be the same length. All your flies should now come out with the same proportions.
  17. Use a plastic push pin to seal the opening on the cap of Zap a Gap. It keeps the glue from drying out and gives you an applicator for the glue.
  18. Home Made Whiting 100 packs - When I tie flies, I never tie in quantities of less than a 1/2 dozen. When I select hackles to pluck from a neck or saddle I use a hackle gauge and will always pick some feathers that are too big or too small for the flies that I am tying. Well, I pluck these too and place them in envelopes made with the corresponding size for future use. This saves me a lot of time down the road.
  19. Home Made Hackle Organizer and Storage Box - Buy a 73 quart Rubbermaid storage tub. This becomes the storage box. I got mine from WalMart for about \$4.50. Get some cardboard boxes and cut them into sheets cut to fit the width and height of the storage box. These become the index cards. Label them Cream, Dun, Black, etc., to correspond with the colors of your hackles. Buy a box of 1 1/2 gallon freezer or heavy duty zip lock bags. Use one bag per color and file them behind the correct labeled index card. I use one bag to hold a color and into it I place all dry and wet fly hackle; necks, saddles, napes and loose feathers. When I tie a fly that requires brown hackle then all I do is pull the brown bag and select the correct hackle type and size.
  20. Well, my tip is actually quite simple. I recommend checking out the craft store for various tying needs. You can easily find items such as synthetic hair (bozo hair), beads, colored markers, etc., and usually for a fraction of the cost of going to the tackle store or fly fishing shop. I would suggest taking an hour and wandering around your local craft store, you'll never know what you'll find!
  21. Don't use anymore wraps of thread than is absolutely necessary. A good way to practice is to tie with heavier thread and don't put on one extra turn of thread. When your flies start to look good, switch to 8/0 or 10/0 and tie them the same way. You'll be surprised how trim and light your flies will be.
  22. After your season is over, take an afternoon or evening and go over your equipment. My favorite time to do this is the middle of winter. A) Take apart the reels you've used and clean them thoroughly, getting out any dirt or sand with a Q-tip. Check for dents or cracks and add a drop of reel lubricant to the moving parts. B) Examine your rod for any loose or worn parts. C) Check the felt soles on your waders. It's easier to replace them over the winter instead of overnight. D) Empty your fly vest and check it for broken snaps or zippers and maybe even run it through the washing machine. E) Check your flies and make a list of what you need. F) Check your fly lines for wear or cracks. Clean them (soap and warm water) and maybe put new leaders on. G) Finally go through all the catalogs. See if there isn't a piece of equipment that you can't live without.
  23. I tied many a caddis pattern until just a short time ago. This has worked great for me and maybe you would like to give it a try. Instead of using elk hair, try using hair from a cinnamon colored bear. You can even use the guard hairs or the short hair close to the body. I found out that bear hair has better translucency and looks more like the real bug when wet. It will pull fish from as far away as 15 feet or more.
  24. How about 2 pair of non-slip hackle pliers for less than \$2 and 1 minute of your time. Go to local Radio Shack and buy a card of Archer mini test clips (cat # 270-372). Lash a piece of 1/16" rubber band to the shaft and under the copper clip.

25. Eliminate static when tying deer hair or any other hair by spraying the material with static guard before use. You can also wipe your hands with a static sheet used in clothes dryers.
26. Don't take yourself and your tying too seriously. Relax and have fun.
27. Even if you're young, use good lighted magnification with a suitable background when tying small flies.
28. When you buy a new box of hooks, crush every barb and put the hooks back in the box. Saves time when tying.
29. For 'Zonker Strips' buy whole rabbit skins and make your own. Make a cutting tool by placing a razor on the sides of a popsicle stick (you can attach several together). Carefully run the tool down or across the skin.
30. Don't make 3 or 4 wraps of thread when 2 will do. Thread costs money but more importantly, unnecessary wraps take time and build unwanted bulk.
31. When winding peacock herl bodies: a)Use 2 to 5 strands; b)Align tips and cut off butts. This makes all strands equal in length; c)Tie in at BUTT END and wind forward. The equal length strands allow the tier to build the body without 'losing' the short strands near the head.
32. Surgical tubing over one jaw of hackle pliers gives better gripping and far fewer cut or torn hackle feathers. Bare jaws should be flat, burr free and parallel inside when closed.
33. If you have rough skin that interferes with your tying, especially in the winter months, then try this. Put a teaspoon of sugar and a teaspoon of plain baby oil in the palm of your hand. Rub and work the mixture as if you were washing. After a short time, maybe 30 seconds, rinse your hands with warm water and towel dry. You will have softer, smoother, clean hands and be ready to tie away.
34. Learn what you can keep 'forever' and what ages and dries out. (UV damages light silk, mono, dyed thread, etc.)
35. The finest thread for the task makes the neatest fly; more important in smaller sizes.
36. New 'super' strong thread (Kevlar) can cut (both you and material like deer hair).
37. Keep questionable materials quarantined, at least temporarily.
38. Sand finger tips (skin also) to avoid fraying floss, etc. – keep an old emery board handy. Wetting floss also helps but may weaken the material.
39. You can easily calculate required length of a normally spooled or carded material, such as tinsel, poly yarn, floss, etc., then do the math for tying a dozen (or some quantity). Add some extra (say  $\frac{3}{4}$ "?) for cutting, then cut 1 piece for the total quantity to be tied. This will save you much material.
40. To improve speed, feel and proportion, start by tying many of a single pattern in the same size, then tie smaller.
41. Good spade hackle for tailing is getting scarce because of genetic necks. Don't use material for size 10 tails when tying size 16's.
42. For the best quill body shape, allow the butts of the tail hackle to extend to the wing and tie down smoothly.
43. Wind larger stemmed hackle first. The finer stemmed hackle will 'nest' better. The stronger wound first also makes a 'tighter' fly.
44. Small magnets and small rubber bands are great to keep around the tying bench. Magnets keep hooks and flies from 'wandering'. Rubber bands can be used for keeping threads, wires, tinsel, and other carded or spooled materials contained on spools.
45. If you find it difficult to use flank feathers because of the curvature, try steam ironing them. Put a moist towel between the feathers and the iron. This will also work with flight feathers. Or, (make sure the iron is set at steam) grab the flank feather by the stem and quickly draw it under the iron.
46. New tyers should just tie different size threads to the bare hook shank and practice breaking these threads. Once they get a feel for the breaking strength, the tyer will be able to tie 'at the limit'. The result will be a stronger, better looking and more durable fly.

Although this started out as a contest, it will not end up that way. The total participation and number of 'tips' submitted by individuals was insufficient. Hopefully, with any similar type activity in the future, there will be more active participation.

A big 'Thank You' to all the Guild members who sent in these tying tips. Hopefully, readers will be able to use one or more of these to make their own fly tying somewhat easier, relaxing improve their tying and make the time they spend at the bench more efficient.

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## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Members are needed to make presentations or do a demonstration at upcoming meetings starting in September and running through June, 2004. Presentations, demonstrations and tying sessions are the backbone of our meetings **and** they are fun. They are also the key to communicating and fostering the main objective of the Guild. That is, to promote, foster and continue the traditions of the Catskill Flies. If you have anything you'd like to share and would be willing to do it at one of our meetings, please contact: Allan Podell, 100 Glen Ave., Elmira, NY 14905. Phone # (607)734-6257 or email address [apodell@stny.rr.com](mailto:apodell@stny.rr.com).

The Catskill Fly Tyer's Guild GAZETTE is issued 5 or 6 times per year to members. Membership is only \$10 per year. New, first time members also get a FREE copy of the booklet '**Favorite Rivers, Favorite Flies**' as well as discounts on Guild patches and pins. **WANT TO JOIN THE GUILD or GIVE A FRIEND A Great GIFT?** Just complete this form, mail it and a check to: CFTG, PO Box 0663, Roscoe, NY 12776-0663. **REMEMBER**, memberships renew in February.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

(optional) email address: \_\_\_\_\_